

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES  
OF THE  
Twenty-fourth Annual Session  
OF THE  
PER RIVER  
Baptist Association

HELD WITH

Zion Chapel Church

November 3, 4, and 5

1900

OFFICERS

*Moderator*, T. J. BROOKS, Victoria, Ala.

*Clerk*, M. A. HELMS, Jr., Elba, Ala.

*Treasurer*, G. M. FOWLER, Victoria, Ala.

The next session of this Association will be held with Damasesens  
Church, ten miles southeast of Elba, beginning on  
Wednesday before the second Sabbath  
in October, 1901, and continue  
Thursday and Friday

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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

## .....MINUTES.....

The Pea River Baptist Association met in its twenty-fourth annual session with the Baptist church at Zion Chapel on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of November, 1900, and was called to order by A. J. Wise, Jr., the former moderator.

The appointee, H. S. Nicholas, being absent, the introductory sermon was preached by Elder I J Johnson, his alternate. Text, Acts 4:13.

The association then adjourned until 1:30 o'clock.

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The association met according to adjournment, and was led in prayer by C. L. Matthews.

The letters from the different churches were presented and read, and the delegates' names enrolled as follows:

Zion Chapel—J H Fowler, W J Willis, J J Calhoun.

Whitewater—A S Head, T J Brooks, W C Braswell.

Bethany—J M Moore, J L Corbit, J H Sawyer, N M Johnson.

Shiloh—M A Helms, C O Helms, M A Helms, Jr.

Perdue—Z R Fuller, W F Newson, W E Fuller.

Damascus—L Watkins, C I Stewart, W J H Wood.

Clintonville—D B Moore, G W Caylor.

New Home—I B Barnes, J H Murphree, W J J Heath.

New Ebenezer—C C Fleming, J H Helms, A J Hudson.

Hebron—L N Tew, W H Johnson, T F Wilkins, Freeman Paul.

Bluff Springs—Johnnie Johnson, Reuben Bryan, Babey Johnson.

Elba—S O Y Ray, C W Simmons, G H Thigpen, T D Kendrick, J J Morris.

Union Grove—W B Snelgrove, J F Patterson, J F Meredith.

Concord—J L and L F Jernigan, Murrain Curington.

Bethlehem—A J Wise, Jr., H H Nolan.

Mt. Pleasant—C B Powell, W H Tew, J G Jones, W S Anderson.

Woodland Grove—G M Fowler, T J Plant, I J Peavy.

New Hope—J D Willis, G W Beck, B J Lewis.

Went into the election of officers. The moderator appointed C L Matthews and M A Helms, jr., as tellers. The tellers reported the following officers elected: For moderator, T J Brooks; for clerk, M A Helms, jr.; for treasurer, G M Fowler.

The moderator made a talk expressing his thanks,

Adopted the old order of business.

The moderator appointed G M Fowler, together with the delegates of Zion Chapel church, as committee on divine service.

The committee on divine service reported to preach at the arbor, 2:30, C L Matthews.

Called for petitionary letters from churches desiring membership in the Pea River association. None presented.

The moderator appointed the following special committees to report during session.

Committee on nominations—J P Graham, Johnnie Johnson and William Johnson.

On finance—C W Simmons, W H Tew and M A Helms.

On deceased ministers and deacons—A J Wise, jr., S O Y Ray and Z R Fuller.

On institute work—S O Y Ray, C W Simmons, and A J Wise, jr.

On temperance—Len Jernigan, J F Patterson and Willie Willis.

Called for correspondents from other associations. Received from Sardis association, J W Mitchell and J A Taylor. From the Newton, C L Matthews. From New Providence, W G Gilchrist. From Salem, D B Mills.

Elder S O Y Ray was received as representative of the Alabama Baptist paper and State Mission board.

On motion A J Wise, A S Head, W C Braswell and C W Simmons were appointed as committee on change of time of the association.

On motion of S O Y Ray, any member of Pea River association on visiting any other association should be accredited as a correspondent from the Pea River association on presentation of a minute.

On motion the moderator appointed the following committees to report during session:

On home missions—A S Head, G M Fowler, M A Helms.

On foreign missions—C O Helms, F Night, NM Johnson.

Committee appointed on missions at 1899 session were appointed to report on state missions.

Set time to meet and adjourn. To meet at 8:30 a. m. and adjourn at will; and to meet at 1:30 p. m. and adjourn at will.

A J Wise, jr., made a talk in behalf of the Southeast Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute at Newton, Ala.

On motion of A J Wise, jr., the discussion of Sabbath schools was set for Sabbath morning at 9 o'clock and temperance at 10 o'clock. Adjourned to meet Sabbath morning at 8:30.

Preaching at the arbor Saturday at 2:30 by C L Matthews. Text Rev. 22:12. Preaching at church Saturday night by W J Reynolds. Text Lev. 17:11.

**SABBATH MORNING SESSION.**

The association was called to order by the moderator, with singing. Prayer by J P Graham.

On motion the discussion of temperance was deferred until later on in the session.

On motion the subject of Sabbath schools was discussed without reading report.

The discussions were made by D B Mills, M A Helms, J W Reynolds, S O Y Ray, C L Matthews, C B Powell, J P Graham.

Recalled for correspondents and J A Taylor's name was enrolled from Sardis, and W G Gilchrist from the New Providence association.

Preaching at the arbor by Elder S O Y Ray. Text. Luke 19:26, 27.

Sunday's collection for missions \$12.30. For orphanage \$3.70.

**AFTERNOON SESSION.**

Called to order by the moderator. Prayer by G M Fowler.

Report on temperance read by L F Jernigan as follows:

We, your committee on Temperance offer the following report: We believe intemperance to be the worst evil that attends the human family, as it is the first to make its appearance, especially the intemperate use of intoxicating liquors. We can be intemperate in many things, but the intemperate use of distilled liquors is the greatest temptation to man, as it comes in varied forms. It is taught in the Scriptures of a truth that no drunkard can enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Dear brethren in Christ, do you want your children and neighbors' children to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, or do you want them to go away into eternal night and misery where go up the wails of the dead and dying forever?

L. F. Jernigan, Chairman.  
After discussion by L F Jernigan, S O Y Ray A J Wise, Jr., C W Simmons and B D Mills, the report was adopted.

Prayer by D B Mills, then adjourned until 8:30 Monday morning.

**MONDAY MORNING SESSION.**

The association was called to order by the moderator. Prayer by J M Moore.

The moderator appointed standing committees to report at next session, the names of which will appear further on in this minute.

A J Wise, jr., read the following report on deceased ministers and deacons:

We, your committee, have no special intelligence concerning the condition of our aged ministers, except our aged and highly esteemed brother J. W. Bullard, who has died since the last meeting of this association. Some provision has been made for his family. We recommend that the association extend them all the help possible. We recommend this sort of work to our association as worthy of our co-operation. And we recommend that our churches take up collections for this work. We also have to record the sad intelligence that our beloved brother L. P. Brunson has died since our last session. He was a deacon of Woodland Grove church.

A. J. Wise, Jr., Chairman.

The following report on Institute work was read:

Your committee have no definite facts about this work to report, except that much work has been done. Brother G. S. Anderson, who has charge of this work, has visited many portions of the state and has held quite a number of institutes and reports the work in a very hopeful condition. The object of this work is to benefit the ministry of our state who have had no special school advantages. As many as 150 have attended these meetings this year

who have been stimulated and helped. Brother Anderson reports at least 800 ministers who have had no special school advantages. We recommend this work to our association as worthy of its co-operation, sympathy and prayers.

C. W. Simmons, Chairman.

After being discussed by A. J. Wise, Jr., B. D. Mills, J. M. Moore, S.O.Y.Ray, C. L. Matthews, the report was adopted.

S O Y Ray read reports on State, Home and Foreign Missions as follows:

#### STATE MISSIONS.

The state board of missions was organized in 1875 with Rev. L M Bailey as corresponding secretary. The purpose was to arouse the churches to a sense of their obligations to God in missions, education, pastoral support, etc. The policy of this board has always been along these lines; what the results have been may never be known in this world. For several years past the plan has been evangelistic work with a view of enlisting the churches in mission work by holding rallies, institutes, fifth Sunday meetings. Men were sent all over the state doing this work and they did it well. But now they are giving more attention to missionary work in the towns, cities and countries, helping the weak until they can help themselves, aiding pastors in destitute fields where there is promise of permanency. In this way, more than a hundred of our best churches in the most promising places in our state have been planted. Among these we mention our own county town, Elba, where the church was planted by one of the state missionaries. To do this sort of work, this board asks our co-operation, prayers, sympathy and money. Let us rally to the support of the board and thus aid in supplying destitute places in our state with the gospel as Baptists believe it. In addition to this, this board is also the agent of the Foreign and Home Mission boards in our state. In this way saving expense and friction.

Your committee suggests that the apportionment plan be adopted by our association and our churches requested to try to raise some definite sum the coming year and further that the churches be urged to adopt some system by which every member in every church can be enlisted in giving the gospel to every creature in every land.

J P. Graham, Chairman.

#### HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board has seven departments of work. First, frontier work, which means vigorous efforts to provide churches and preaching for the hundreds and thousands of our own people from the states and other lands which have poured into the western and southwestern portions of our country. The board has spent in this work in Indian territory about in cash \$4,500, in boxes \$6,400. In Oklahoma territory, in cash \$3,000, in boxes \$7,000. In Texas, in cash \$7,000, in boxes \$8,500.

In co-operative work in other states, twelve state boards besides Indian territory, Oklahoma and Texas, have received valuable aid through the home board during the last year, amounting in cash and boxes to about \$33,000. Besides they are doing work in cities among the foreign population, Baltimore, Memphis, New Orleans, St. Louis, Kansas City are among the number helped. These have large numbers of foreigners in them who know not the Lord Jesus Christ, and this number of foreigners is being increased. We must do what we can for them.

#### WORK AMONG THE NEGROES.

They are turning to us for help as never before since the war. Ten million of negroes in our midst and their condition pleads for help, which we must try to give.

#### OUR MOUNTAIN REGIONS

Here our board is trying to establish schools. Northern Presbyterians last year spent \$75,000 in this region which rightfully be-

longs to the Baptists. They say: "If the Baptists will not do this work, we must."

#### CUBA.

The board has appropriated about \$10,000 for this work and has about twenty-five missionaries on the field. They report 270 baptisms last year. This is a very promising field to the baptists of the south.

#### CHURCH BUILDING LOAN FUND.

The board wishes to engage in helping those who by the loan of a few hundred dollars, would be enabled to build small houses of worship, especially on the frontiers. \$3,500 was given for this purpose by the women last year. The great need among Baptists, is a more effective plan of combining and directing our denomination, in a sacred effort for the propagation of the gospel. After fifty years, not half of the churches has been reached. Nine-tenths of the membership give nothing. This problem ought to be solved and must be if we would meet our obligation to our Lord and His cause in the earth.

Your committee suggests that certain amounts be appropriated to the different churches of this association and the churches be requested to raise those amounts if possible, and that the pastors take monthly collections for missions and that our people be requested to take Our Home Field, a monthly paper published by the home mission board, price, ten cents per year, Atlanta, Ga.

A. S. Head, Chairman.

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The gospel is good news. It carries with it the obligation to tell it, and not to tell it is criminal. An obligation to tell it to one man is an obligation to tell it to all men, hence one man's condition and necessity is a sample of the condition and necessity of all men. Proof that one man needs to be saved, is proof that all men need to be saved. It is strange therefore, that any can be found who can repudiate the doctrine of world-wide missions, as all equally need the same good news because all are equally guilty of sin against God.

The purpose of this report is not so much an argument in favor of foreign missions, as it is a statement of what has been accomplished by the Lord's people during the last century.

See what has been accomplished. The word of the Lord has taken hold upon the people; prejudice and opposition have been largely swept away; those who oppose foreign missions are few and among the illiterate. Information has been disseminated, hundreds of books have been written, millions of tracts have been scattered abroad. This work has awakened our churches to higher and holier living. The Sunday school and revival movements came along with the missionary movement. Reaching out for those afar makes us reach out for those at our door. At first it was difficult to get men or means; now we have seventy-thousand missionaries on the field and annually over fifteen million dollars is given for this work. Our schools, colleges, newspapers and governments are finding out more and more that the great book of all books is God's book, and that the teachings of that is Christ for the world and the world must be won to Christ.

Telegraphs, railroads, swift steamships, international laws and commerce are all tending to draw the nations together and hasten the progress of the gospel.

Less than 100 years ago the nations were inaccessible; now the missionary can go into every land on the earth. Bishop Thoburn of India, said recently in an address that "Since he had gone out the door of access had been thrown open to half the human race, seven hundred million people. Then, ignorance of the language stood in the way; now, four hundred and twenty-one languages and dialects have been translated and the bible printed in them.

Hoary superstitions have been broken down, heathen temples and religions are going to decay. Surely the undermining process is going on. Then we had no members; now there are a million and a half converted on foreign mission fields. Then no bibles, now millions are circulated among the heathen. The morning is dawning upon nations which have long sat in darkness; the people see a great light; hence hundreds and thousands in foreign lands are rejoicing in God's truth with thousands of others who have gone from these lands to glory, and they know that this work is not a failure, but only well begun. What have the Baptists done in all these years? We give you as a sample, the results of last year's work: The entire number of converts added to American mission churches and stations in heathen lands were 31,571. Of these, forty-five per cent. were Baptists while the Baptists gave only about fifteen per cent. of the money contributed, but had more than one-third of the converts. The Baptists have about one-third of all the missionaries on foreign fields; they give about one-seventh of all the money contributed and have about one-half of all the converts on all foreign mission fields. It is the manifest duty of Baptists in view of these facts, to humble themselves before the mighty God, to sincerely repent for having done so little and attempt great things for Him who has done so much for us.

Respectfully submitted, C. O. Helms, Chairman.

Discussed by S O Y Ray. Reports were adopted.

Called for report on education. Committee being absent no report was presented.

C O Helms read the following report on Sabbath schools:

Brethren, we find that some of our churches have Sunday schools and some do not. Now we believe that those churches that do not have Sunday schools is not because they believe it not right, but the only reason why they do not is because some brother will not make the proper sacrifice. If some good member of the church will meet with the children every Sabbath, they will be certain to have a good Sunday school. We recommend the literature published by the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, Tenn. C. O. Helms.

Report on publication read as follows:

We, your committee on Publications, very respectfully report that in our opinion religious literature does not circulate in the membership of our churches as it should. We therefore recommend that the pastors of the several churches urge upon their members to take the Alabama Baptist into their homes; also the Texas Baptist Standard, published at Dallas, Texas. We further recommend the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention at Nashville, Tenn., for Sunday school literature. We further recommend the American Baptist Publication Society of Philadelphia for our religious books. We earnestly ask that the families of this Association be supplied with religious literature, and recommend the reading of the bible as the foundation source of all. J. F. Patterson, C. O. Helms, C. W. Simmons, Com.

The report on orphanage if read, was not handed in to the clerk.

Report on nominations read as follows:

We, your committee, offer the following report: We recommend that the next session of this body be held with Damascus church. J M Talley to preach the introductory sermon, T J Brooks, alternate. Executive committee, A J Wise, jr., C W Simmons, A S Head, G T Willis, A J Henderson. Delegates to the State Convention, C O Helms, J M Talley, I J Johnson, C W Simmons, W J Willis. To Southern Baptist Convention, S O Y Ray, T J Brooks, alternate.

Report adopted.

J. P. Graham, Chairman.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received of Finance Committee for Missions.....	\$18 25
For Orphanage.....	2 85
For Printing Minutes.....	20 25

Total.....	\$41 35
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Sunday's Collection for Missions.....	12 30
" " " Orphanage.....	3 70
Making an aggregate of.....	\$57 35

## DISBURSEMENTS.

To S O Y Ray for Missions.....	\$30 55
" " " for Orphanage.....	6 55
To M A Helms, jr., for Minutes.....	20 25

Total.....	\$57 35
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Respectfully, G M Fowler, Treasurer.

On motion of A J Wise, jr., the treasurer was instructed to make the above disbursements.

Report of committee on change of time of meeting of this association was read, and after some changes were made, adopted as follows:

We, your committee on change of time, offer this report: Hereafter the Pea River Baptist Association will hold its sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before the second Sunday in October in each year.

Respectfully submitted, A J Wise, Jr., Chairman.

Miscellaneous business and resolutions were as follows:

Resolution read by A J Wise, jr., as follows:

Whereas, we read in several newspapers that there have been attacks made on brother H L Martin, accusing him of perjury. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we believe brother Martin innocent of such charge, and we hold him in our estimation as we ever have, a high toned Christian gentleman, a person worthy the confidence of all persons.

On motion brother Wise was instructed to have the above resolution printed in the Alabama Baptist.

## RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered to the brethren of Zion Chapel church, together with the very kind citizens in the surrounding vicinity for their kindness to us during our session of the association.

A. J. Wise, Jr.

The association adjourned to meet with Damascus church, 10 miles southeast of Elba, on Wednesday before the second Sunday in October, 1901.

T. J. BROOKS, Moderator.

M. A. HELMS, JR., Clerk.

The following are standing committees to report at next session:

State Missions—W H Tew, C B Powell, J G Jones.

Home Missions—C S Allred, J J Morris, S N Rowe.

Foreign Missions—S O Y Ray, A S Head, Willie Willis.

Education—G H Thigpen, Cicero Braswell, J M Talley.

Temperance—A J Wise, Jr., W T Everett, J P Martin,  
Indigent Ministers—J P Graham, A J Hudson, W F Nichols.

Sabbath Schools—C O Helms, J L Lewis, J A Carnley.

Orphanage—C W Simmons, H S Nichols, J M Moore.

Publications—W H Tew, G T Willis, Downing Willis.

Institute Work—A J Wise, Jr., M J Wood, C O Helms.

Ordained ministers present: I J Johnson, J P Graham, T J Brooks, S O Y Ray, J W Reynolds, J M Moore, B D Mills, C L Matthews, J A Jones, J C Johnson.

## List of Ordained Ministers with Membership in the Pea River Association.

Name.	Post office.	No. churches pastor of.
I. J. Johnsen . . . . .	Rodney, Ala . . . . .	4
H. S. Nichols . . . . .	Eta, Ala . . . . .	4
C. B. Powell . . . . .	Eta, Ala . . . . .	
J. P. Graham . . . . .	Haywood, Ala . . . . .	
N. B. Fleming . . . . .	Curtis, Ala . . . . .	
T. J. Brooks . . . . .	Victoria, Ala . . . . .	
S. O. Y. Ray . . . . .	Elba, Ala . . . . .	2
J. F. Patterson . . . . .	Enterprise, Ala . . . . .	
J. A. Jones . . . . .	Rodney, Ala . . . . .	
J. C. Johnson . . . . .	" "	
J. M. Moore . . . . .	Brockton, Ala . . . . .	4
B. F. Newson . . . . .	Enterprise, Ala . . . . .	

## ABSTRACT OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, and these three are one.
2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.
4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.
5. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.
6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.
7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
8. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.
9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only fit subjects of these ordinances, and that immersion only is baptism.
10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment.
11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.
12. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of the gospel except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Called to order by Moderator.
2. Introductory Sermon.
3. Enrollment of Delegates.
4. Election of officers.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Appoint special committees—1, Devotional; 2, Nominations;
- 3, Finance; 4, Decedased Ministers and Deacons; 5, Institute Work.
7. Receive Correspondents.
8. Appoint Correspondents.
9. Miscellaneous Business.
10. Report of Standing committees—1, Missions; 2, Education;
- 3, Temperance; 4, Indigent Ministers; 5, Sabbath Schools; 6, Orphanage; 7, Publications; 8, Executive Committee.
11. Report of Special committees.
12. Report of Treasurer.
13. Appoint Standing Committees.
14. Miscellaneous Business.

# STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POSTOFFICE.	Preaching Sabbath.			
				Reports Revival	Pastor's Salary.	Associational Purposes.	Orphans Home.
Bethlehem	D C Allen	A J Wise	Victoria	\$ 51	\$ 345	\$ 1	\$ 1
Bluff Springs	J P Graham	C O H Martin	Rodney	61	1 50	1 2	
Hebron	M Loftin	T Filkins	Baltic	77	1 05	44 25	1 3
Bethany	J M Moore	J L Corbitt	Brockton	96	2 00	11 55	1 1
Clintonville	J M Rowe	G W Taylor	Clintonville	49	55	32 00	1 2
Mt. Pleasant	H S Nichols	W L Baggett	Eta	177	2 05	32 00	1 2
New Home	J M Moore	T M Floyd	Goodman	72	1 00	40 20	1 2
Woodland Grove	I J Johnson	A McKinnon	Brunson	57	1 15	25	
New Hope	C L Matthews	J T Egerton	Fresco	27	2 1	1 20	1 1
Perdue		Z R Fuller	Perdue	1	1	20 55	25 00
New Ebenezer	I J Johnson	J H Short	George	69	1 65	25 00	4
White Water	J M Talley	F M Reeves	Elba	118	1 10	2 00	
Shiloh	I J Johnson	Parker	Elba	34	50	75	1 3
Elba	S O Y Ray	C O Helms	Elba	14	1 145	2 00	30 50 180 00
Union Grove	T J Brooks	C S Allred	Enterprise	1	1	30	12 25
Damascus	S O Y Ray	J W Merdith	Damascus	6	3	1 121	4 23
Concord	J W Reynolds	W H Segraves	Jack	5	5	24	25 00
Zion Chapel	W A Cumble	Joe Jernigan	Jack	3	4 1 5	58	1 4
	J H Fowler	J H Fowler	Total	99 87	6 61 54 23 1529	\$2025 \$34 05	\$285 \$3050 8

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# MUSIC

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... A . .

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